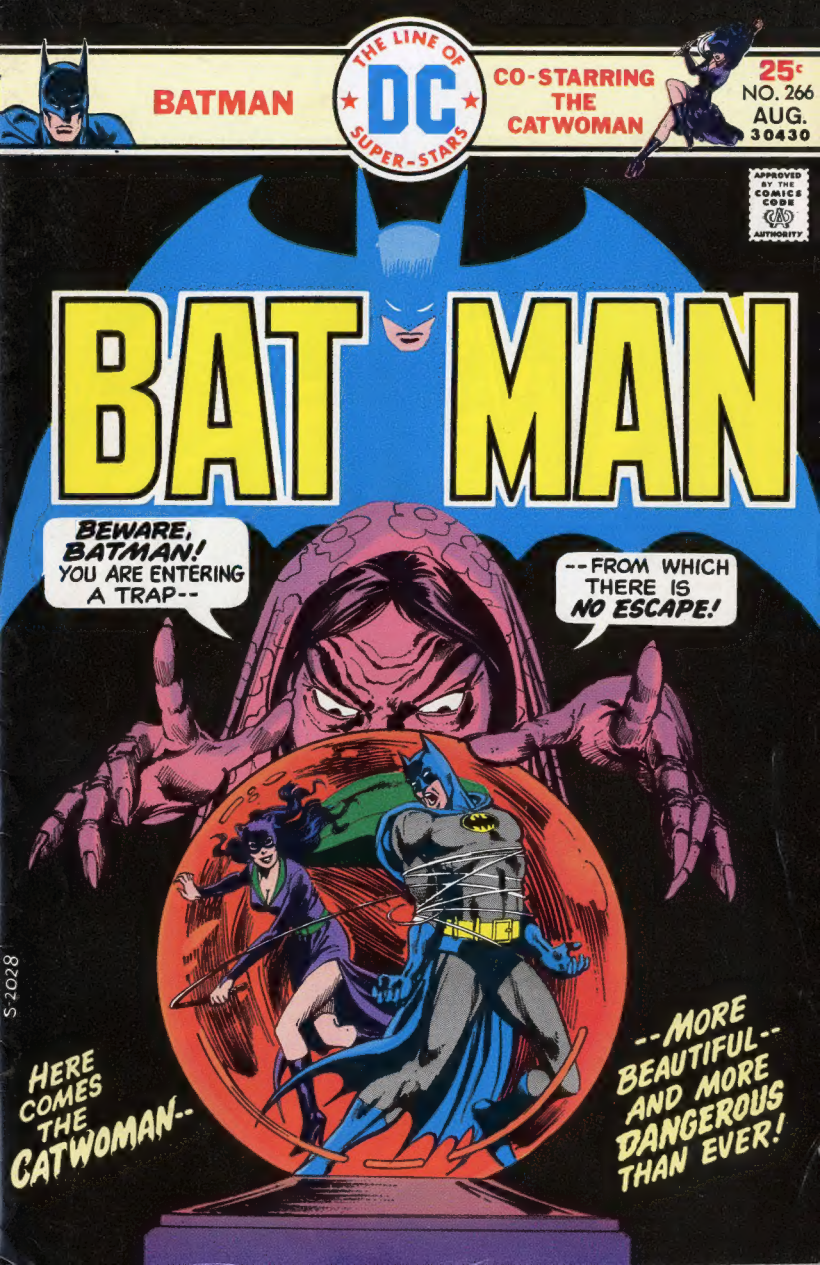
BATMAN
THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS
CO-STARRING THE CATWOMAN
25¢
NO. 266
AUG.
30430
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BAT MAN
BEWARE, BATMAN! YOU ARE ENTERING A TRAP--
--FROM WHICH THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
S-2028
HERE COMES THE CATWOMAN--
--MORE BEAUTIFUL-- AND MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!

3 free baseball cards

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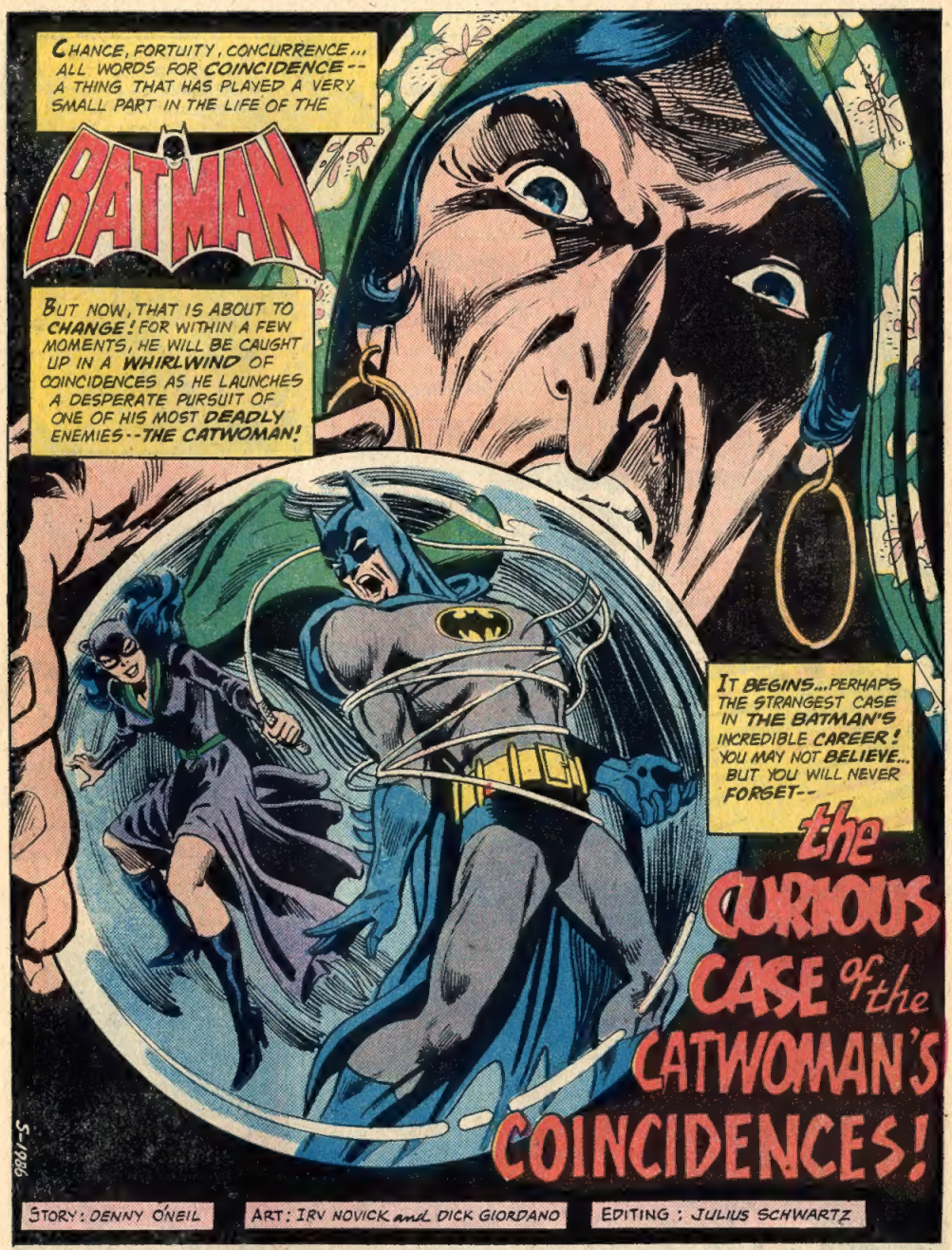
CHANCE, FORTUITY, CONCURRENCE... ALL WORDS FOR COINCIDENCE -- A THING THAT HAS PLAYED A VERY SMALL PART IN THE LIFE OF THE
BATMAN
BUT NOW, THAT IS ABOUT TO CHANGE! FOR WITHIN A FEW MOMENTS, HE WILL BE CAUGHT UP IN A WHIRLWIND OF COINCIDENCES AS HE LAUNCHES A DESPERATE PURSUIT OF ONE OF HIS MOST DEADLY ENEMIES--THE CATWOMAN!
IT BEGINS...PERHAPS THE STRANGEST CASE IN THE BATMAN'S INCREDIBLE CAREER! YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE... BUT YOU WILL NEVER FORGET--
the CURIOUS CASE of the CATWOMAN'S COINCIDENCES!
S-1986
STORY: DENNY O'NEIL
ART: IRV NOVICK and DICK GIORDANO
EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

BATMAN. Vol. 36, No.266, August, 1975. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC. 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10019. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Julius Schwartz, Editor. E. Nelson Bridwell, Associate Editor. Bob Rozakis, Assistant Editor. Sol Harrison, Vice-President. Jack Adler, Production Manager. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N. Y. and additional mailing offices.Advertising Representative: Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. (212) 391-1400. Copyright © 1975 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed In U.S.A.

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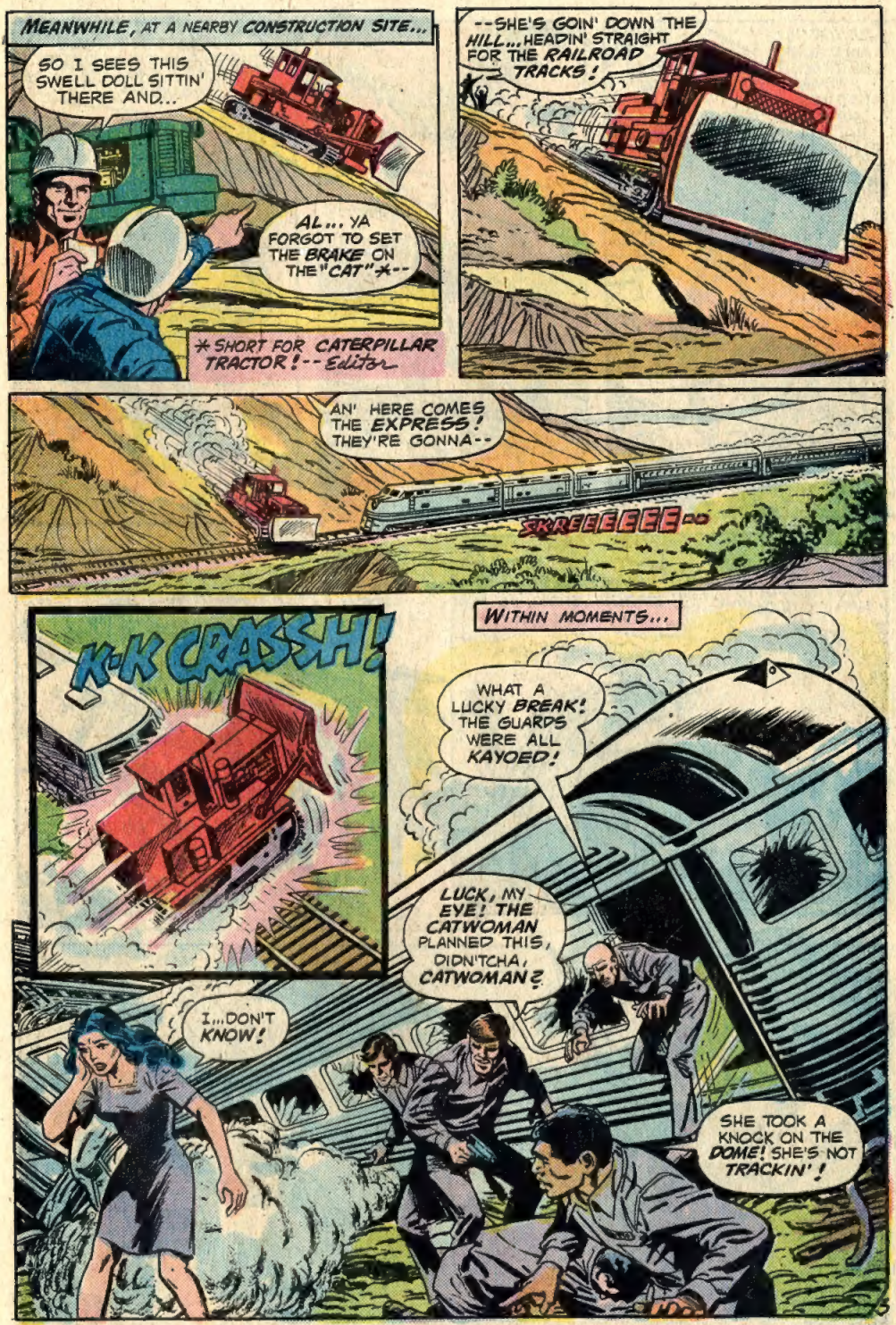
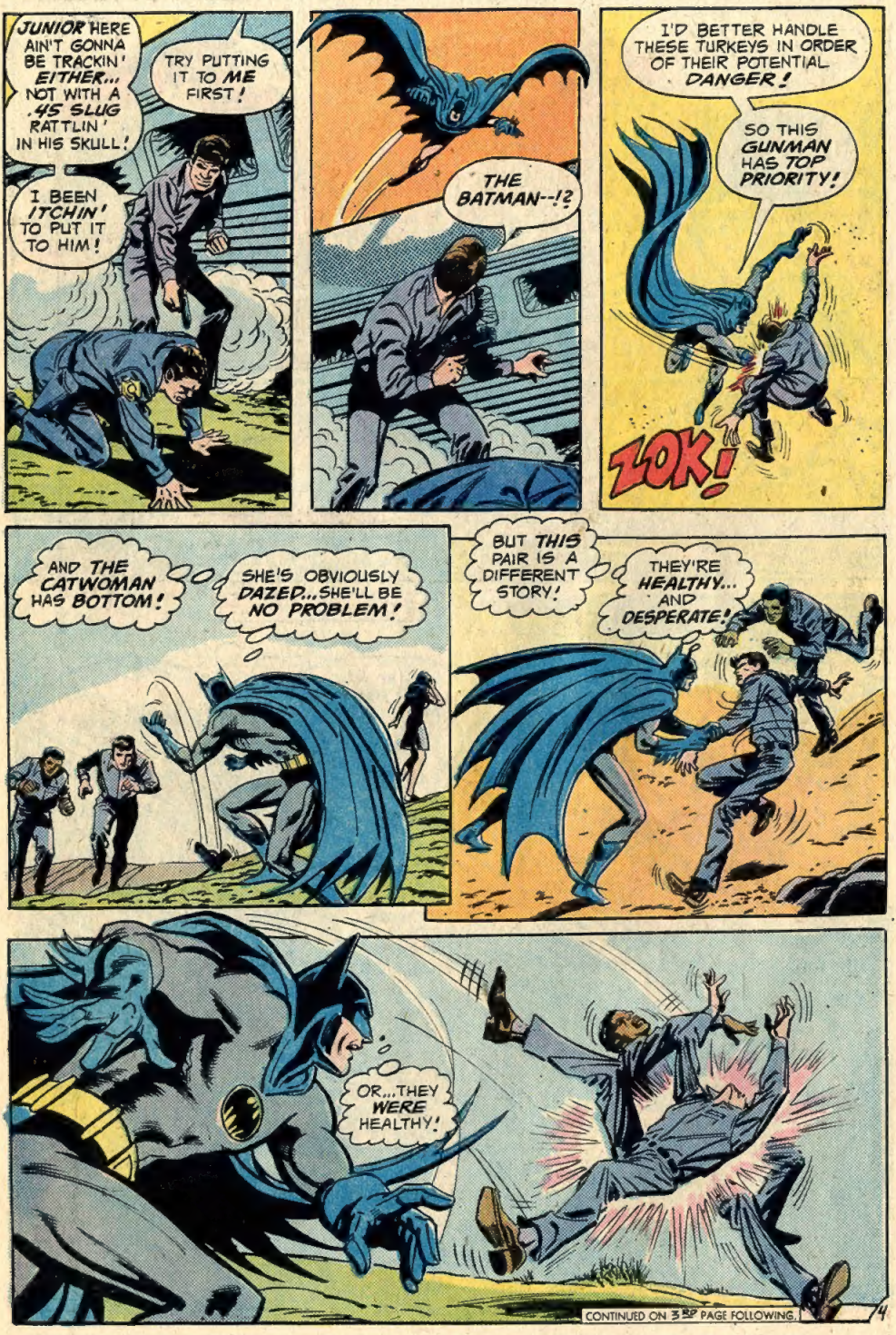
YOUR STARS BE IN CROSS-CONJUNCTION, BRUCE WAYNE-- AN' IT MEANS YE BE IN FOR A PLAGUE OF COINCIDENCES!
MARK ME WELL, BRUCE WAYNE--
--MARK THE WORDS OF THE GYPSY WOMAN!
MOVE ALONG NOW, AND STOP BOTHERING THE GENTLEMEN!
OH, I DIDN'T MIND, CONDUCTOR!
WELL, I DID! ARE WE PLAYING BACKGAMMON--
--OR ARE WE LISTENING TO AN OLD FOOL'S PRATTLE?
ODD SHE MENTIONED COINCIDENCE... BECAUSE MY PRESENCE ABOARD THIS TRAIN IS NO COINCIDENCE!
YOUR PLAY, WAYNE!
THE REAR CAR IS FULL OF CRIMINALS-- EN ROUTE TO THE STATE PRISON--
--INCLUDING SELINA KYLE... THE CATWOMAN!
IF SHE HOLDS TRUE TO FORM, SHE'LL TRY AN ESCAPE...
...WHICH WILL MEAN WORK FOR THE BATMAN!
BAT MAN


MEANWHILE, AT A NEARBY CONSTRUCTION SITE...
SO I SEES THIS SWELL DOLL SITTIN' THERE AND...
AL... YA FORGOT TO SET THE BRAKE ON THE "CAT"*--
*SHORT FOR CATERPILLAR TRACTOR!--Editor
--SHE'S GOIN' DOWN THE HILL... HEADIN' STRAIGHT FOR THE RAILROAD TRACKS!
AN' HERE COMES THE EXPRESS! THEY'RE GONNA--
SKREEEEEEE--
K-K CRASSH!
WITHIN MOMENTS...
WHAT A LUCKY BREAK! THE GUARDS WERE ALL KAYOED!
LUCK, MY EYE! THE CATWOMAN PLANNED THIS, DIDN'TCHA, CATWOMAN?
I...DON'T KNOW!
SHE TOOK A KNOCK ON THE DOME! SHE'S NOT TRACKIN'!


JUNIOR HERE AIN'T GONNA BE TRACKIN' EITHER... NOT WITH A .45 SLUG RATTLIN' IN HIS SKULL!
TRY PUTTING IT TO ME FIRST!
I BEEN ITCHIN' TO PUT IT TO HIM!
THE BATMAN--!?
I'D BETTER HANDLE THESE TURKEYS IN ORDER OF THEIR POTENTIAL DANGER!
SO THIS GUNMAN HAS TOP PRIORITY!
ZOK!
AND THE CATWOMAN HAS BOTTOM!
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY DAZED..SHE'LL BE NO PROBLEM!
BUT THIS PAIR IS A DIFFERENT STORY!
THEY'RE HEALTHY... AND DESPERATE!
OR...THEY WERE HEALTHY!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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if you join now and agree to buy 6 more selections (at regular Club prices) in the next 2 years

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You agree to buy six selections (at regular Club prices) in the next 2 years — and you may cancel membership at any time after buying six selections.

Your own charge account will be opened upon enrollment. The selections you order as a member will be mailed and billed at regular Club prices: cartridges and cassettes, $6.98 or $7.98; reel tapes, $7.98; records, $5.98 or $6.98 — plus processing and postage. (Multiple unit sets and Double Selections may be somewhat higher.)

You may accept or reject selections as follows: every four weeks (13 times a year) you will receive a new copy of the Club's music magazine, which describes the Selection of the Month for each musical interest . . . plus hundreds of alternate selections from every field of music. In addition, about six times a year we will offer some Special Selections (usually at a discount off regular Club prices). A response card will always be enclosed with each magazine.

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. . . if you want only the Selection of the Month or the Special Selection, do nothing — it will be shipped automatically

. . . if you want any of the other selections offered, just order them on the response card and mail it by the date specified.

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You'll be eligible for our bonus plan upon completing your enrollment agreement — a plan which enables you to save at least 33% on all future purchases. Act now!

NOTE: all applications are subject to review and Columbia House reserves the right to reject any application.

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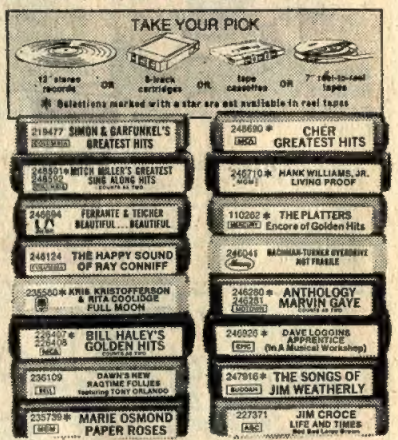
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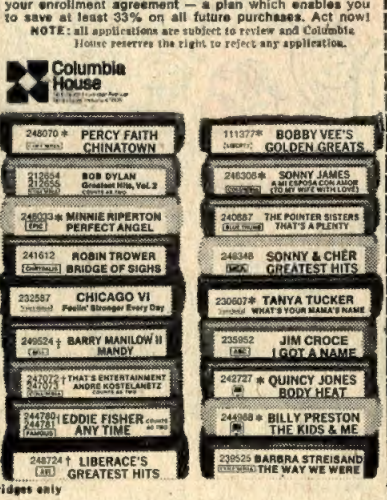
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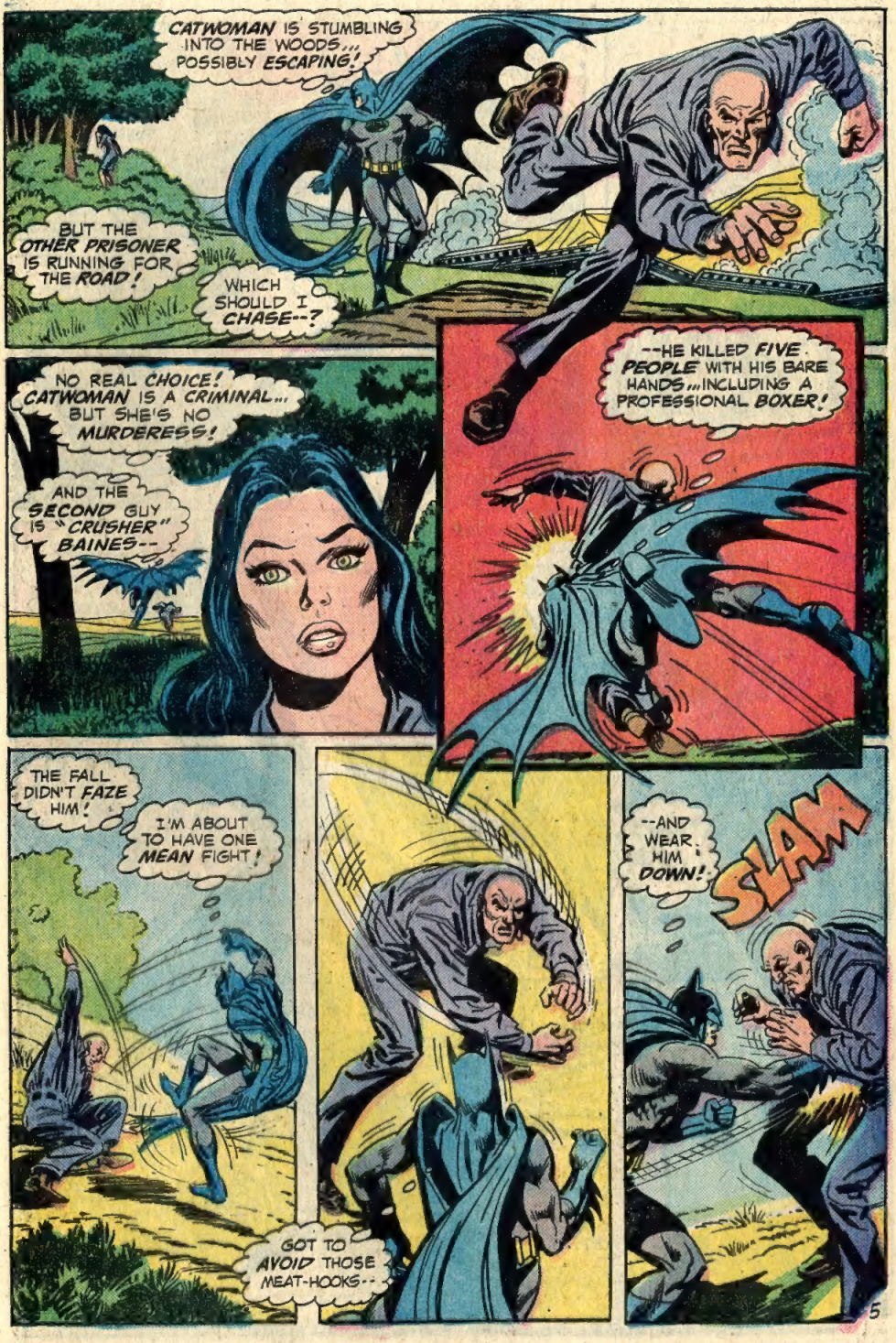
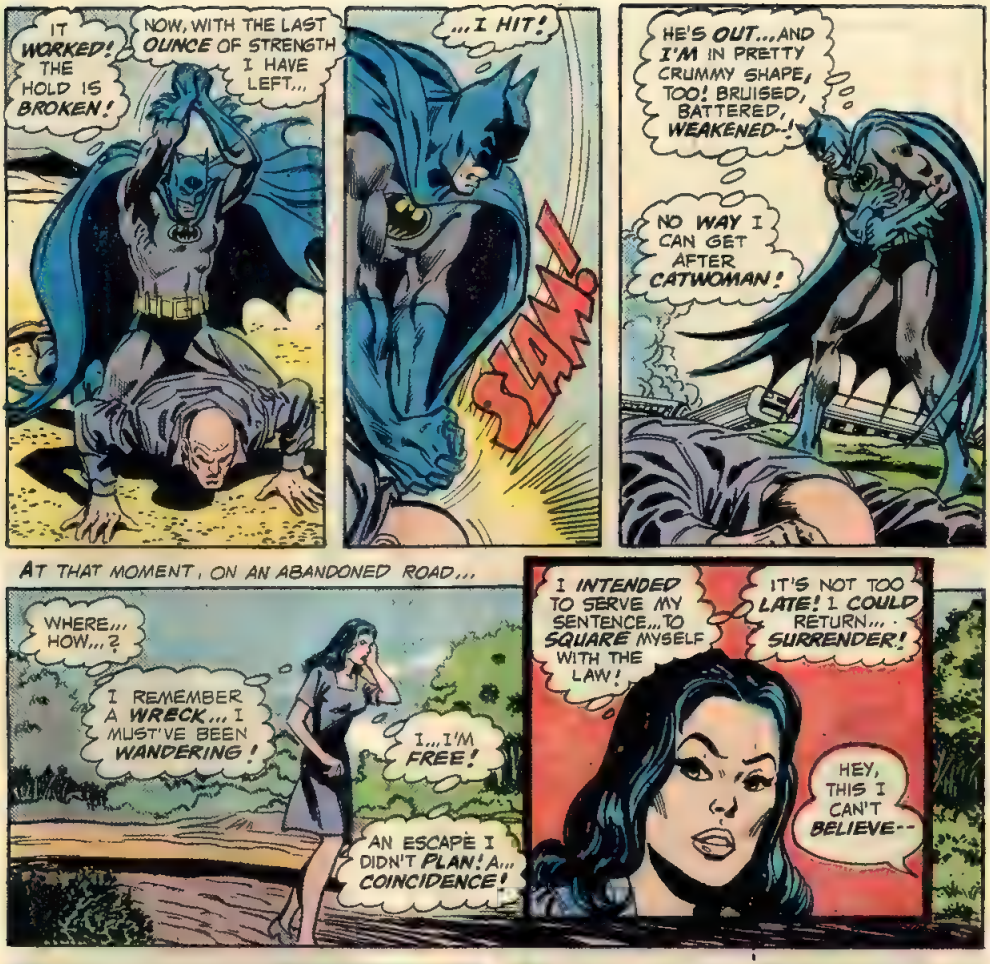
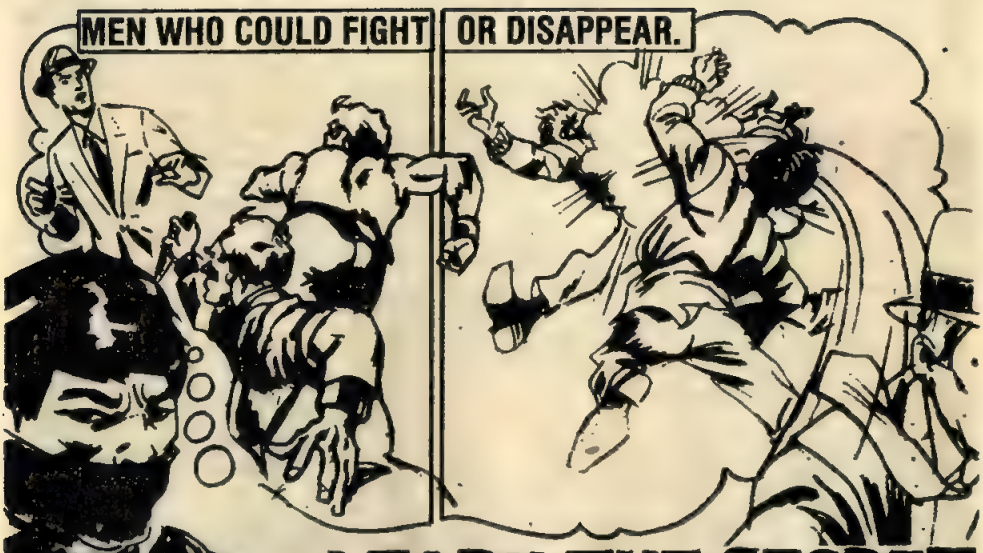

CATWOMAN IS STUMBLING INTO THE WOODS... POSSIBLY ESCAPING!
BUT THE OTHER PRISONER IS RUNNING FOR THE ROAD!
WHICH SHOULD I CHASE--?
--HE KILLED FIVE PEOPLE WITH HIS BARE HANDS... INCLUDING A PROFESSIONAL BOXER!
NO REAL CHOICE! CATWOMAN IS A CRIMINAL... BUT SHE'S NO MURDERESS!
AND THE SECOND GUY IS "CRUSHER" BAINES--
THE FALL DIDN'T FAZE HIM!
I'M ABOUT TO HAVE ONE MEAN FIGHT!
GOT TO AVOID THOSE MEAT-HOOKS--
--AND WEAR HIM DOWN!
SLAM

NO BLASTED GOOD! LIKE PUNCHING BOILER PLATE!
HIS BODY IS THICK WITH MUSCLE--
--SO I'LL TRY A SHOT TO THE BUTTON!
ALL THAT DID WAS MAKE HIM MAD!
FORTUNATELY, HE'S SLOW... CLUMSY!
UNNGH!
HE WAS...FAKING SLOWNESS!
STUNNED ME!
GAVE HIM TIME FOR ...BEAR-HUG...
ARMS PINNED... HE'S CAVING IN MY RIBS...
...ONE CHANCE... PUT MY BOOT BEHIND HIS ANKLE--
--AND SUDDENLY SHIFT MY WEIGHT...
...KNOCK HIM OFF BALANCE!


IT WORKED! THE HOLD IS BROKEN!
NOW, WITH THE LAST OUNCE OF STRENGTH I HAVE LEFT...
...I HIT!
SLAM!
HE'S OUT...AND I'M IN PRETTY CRUMMY SHAPE, TOO! BRUISED, BATTERED, WEAKENED--!
NO WAY I CAN GET AFTER CATWOMAN!
AT THAT MOMENT, ON AN ABANDONED ROAD...
WHERE... HOW...?
I REMEMBER A WRECK... I MUST'VE BEEN WANDERING!
I...I'M FREE!
AN ESCAPE I DIDN'T PLAN! A... COINCIDENCE!
I INTENDED TO SERVE MY SENTENCE...TO SQUARE MYSELF WITH THE LAW!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE! I COULD RETURN... SURRENDER!
HEY, THIS I CAN'T BELIEVE--
--THE CATWOMAN! C'MON, DOLL... HOP IN!
YOU AIN'T FORGOT ME, HAVE YA?-- RUDY STERN?
WE PULLED A BANK JOB TOGETHER!
WERE YOU... LOOKING FOR ME, RUDY?
NAW... I JUST HAPPENED BY!-- PURE COINCIDENCE!

WE'LL ROUND UP THE REST OF THE OLD MOB IN GOTHAM AN' SWING!
WITH YOU LEADIN' US AGAIN, THE TOWN'LL BE OURS!
HOW'S FOR A LI'L KISS TO CELEBRATE?
OWWW... MY HAND!
I'LL LEAD YOU... BUT I TOLERATE NO FAMILIARITY!
UNDERSTOOD?
S-SURE!
THAT NIGHT...
WEARIN' YOUR OLD COSTUME, HUH, CATWOMAN?
YES! IT HAS COME BACK INTO STYLE!
BUT NEVER MIND MY COUTURE! I HAVE A TASK FOR YOU!
USE YOUR UNDER-WORLD CONTACTS! LEARN WHICH OF THE LOCAL RICH BIDDIES ARE DISPLAYING A LOT OF DIAMONDS!
WE ARE GOING INTO THE JEWELRY BUSINESS, GENTLEMEN!
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING



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NINJA were the men who passed anywhere at will, had the power to overcome every martial art, and were masters of invisibility. If you can read, you can master the theory of even the most closely guarded of all NINJA SECRETS, The Art of Invisibility.

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WHAT THIS MEANS TO YOU

Now, regardless of your size, strength, or build, you can protect yourself and your loved ones from ANY ATTACKER under ANY CONDITIONS. Even while sleeping, an adept NINJA can utilize these devastating techniques.

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Through NINJUTSU you learn to utilize and draw on the enormous **physio-mental powers** which now lie dormant in your own body. **THE SECRETS OF NINJUTSU** will show you how to take advantage of the **fundamental laws of natural movements**, and the all important **time-lag-factor**, which are instrumental to the art of disappearing.

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We're sure that you will be completely satisfied by **THE SECRETS OF NINJUTSU.** This manual will give you the knowledge to defend yourself and your loved ones and a sense of confidence and assurance you've never had before. If dissatisfied return it within thirty days for a refund of purchase price with no questions asked.

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- Techniques of Stealth and Invisibility
- The Deadly **Retrievable Stone**
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- Closely Guarded Secrets of Atemi-Waza
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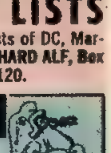

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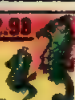

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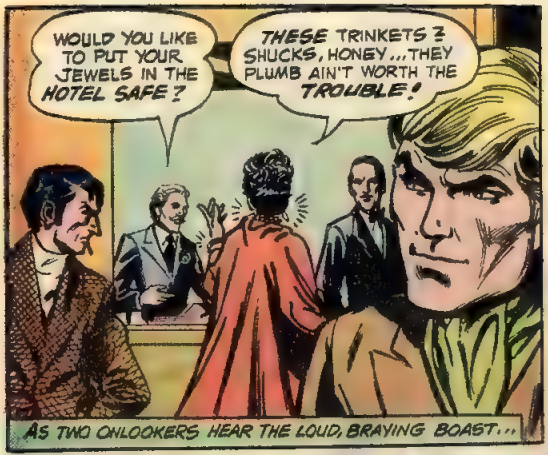
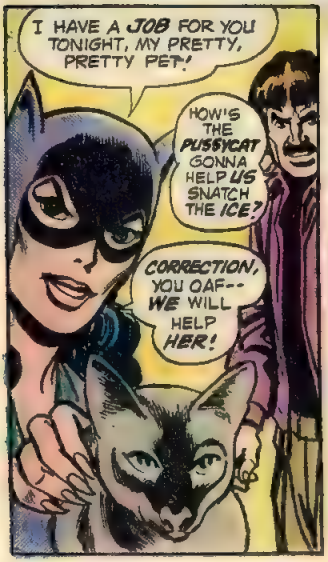
ELSEWHERE, A FAMILIAR SIGNAL STABS THE SABLE SKY...
I HOPE YOUR SUMMONS MEANS THE CATWOMAN HAS BEEN NABBED, COMMISSIONER!
NO SUCH LUCK, BATMAN!
I'VE CALLED YOU ON ANOTHER MATTER!
FOR WEEKS WE'VE BEEN PLAGUED WITH JEWEL ROBBERIES... AND WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE IN SOLVING THEM!
I'M TOO SHORT-HANDED TO ARRANGE A TRAP! I WAS WONDERING IF--
--IF I'D SET YOUR TRAP? GLADLY!
EVER HEAR OF BERTHA CARRINGTON-BRIDGEWATER?
NO!
YOU WILL, COMMISSIONER... YOU SURE WILL!
THE FOLLOWING EVENING, AT THE GOTHAM PLAZA HOTEL...
HOWDY, Y'ALL!
I 'SPECT YOU GOT A RESERVATION FOR ME AT THIS HERE FANCY HO-TEL!
THE HANDLE'S BERTHA CARRINGTON-BRIDGEWATER! MUH FOURTH HUSBAND WAS A CARRINGTON... THE FIFTH WAS A BRIDGEWATER!
UNDERNEATH, THOUGH, I'M STILL LITTLE BERTY SUGGINS OF SPRUNG AXLE, TEXAS!
ER-- WELCOME, MRS. CARRINGTON-BRIDGEWATER! YOUR SUITE IS READY!


WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT YOUR JEWELS IN THE HOTEL SAFE?
THESE TRINKETS? SHUCKS, HONEY... THEY PLUMB AIN'T WORTH THE TROUBLE!
AS TWO ONLOOKERS HEAR THE LOUD, BRAYING BOAST...

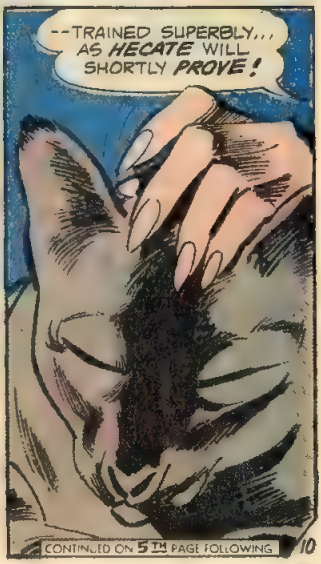
...A FAINT SMILE TUGS AT THE CORNERS OF ARISTOCRATIC LIPS...
TELEPHONES

...AND DECIDEDLY UNARISTOCRATIC LIPS WHISPER INTO A PAY PHONE...
I'M TELLIN' YA, CATWOMAN! THE BROACH ALONE MUST BE WORTH A HUNNERT GRAND!

IF YOUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT, YOU'LL GET THE USUAL FINDER'S FEE-- 10%!
GOODBYE, WEASEL!


I HAVE A JOB FOR YOU TONIGHT, MY PRETTY, PRETTY PET!
HOW'S THE PUSSYCAT GONNA HELP US SNATCH THE ICE?
CORRECTION, YOU OAF-- WE WILL HELP HER!

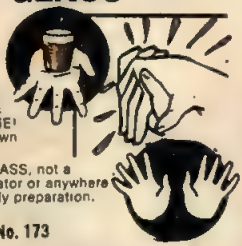
YOU FORGET MY SPECIAL TALENT! I AM ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUCH UTTER RAPPORT WITH FELINES THAT I CAN TRAIN THEM!
MY PRETTY SIAMESE, HECATE, HAS BEEN TRAINED--


--TRAINED SUPERBLY... AS HECATE WILL SHORTLY PROVE!
CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

VANISHING WHISKEY GLASS

Anyone can do it

Audience may sit anywhere — and still be fooled!



An ordinary whiskey glass containing any kind of liquid is held in full view on palm of hand and the other hand covers glass. Both hands are squeezed together, hands immediately opened, The GLASS OF LIQUID HAS GONE! Disappeared as clean as a whistle. Both hands are shown positively empty.

Now, here is another surprising feature. THE SAME GLASS, not a duplicate, is produced from behind knee or from spectator or anywhere your fancy dictates. DO IT AGAIN. There is no get-ready preparation. We guarantee this to be as stated

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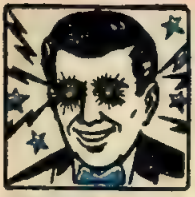

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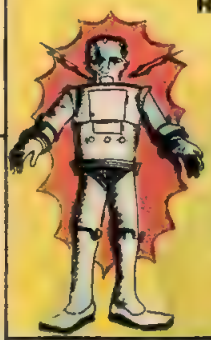
HORRIBLE!

GORY!



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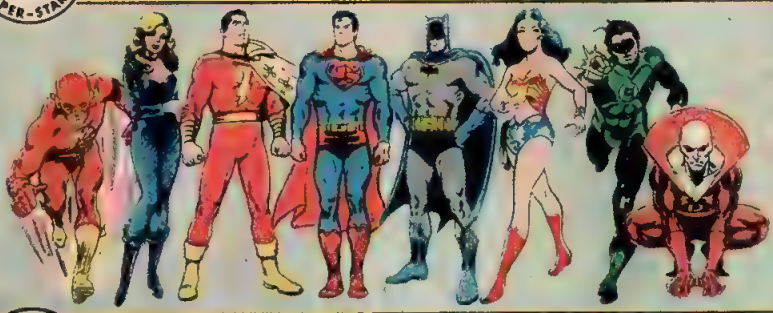
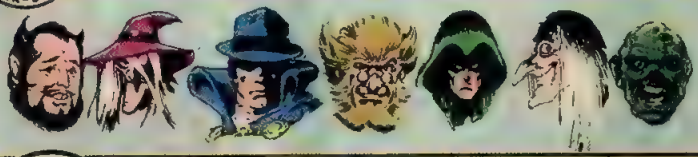


THEN THE LINE OF DC SUPER-STARS INTRODUCED TOP QUALITY MYSTERY TALES



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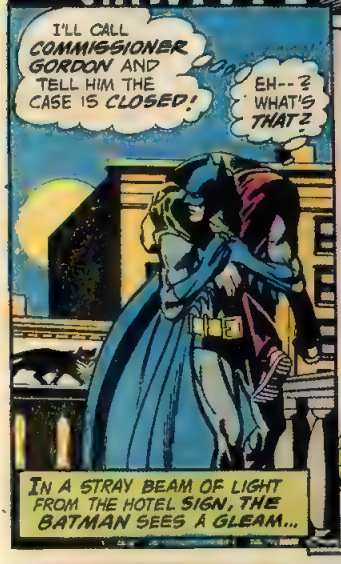
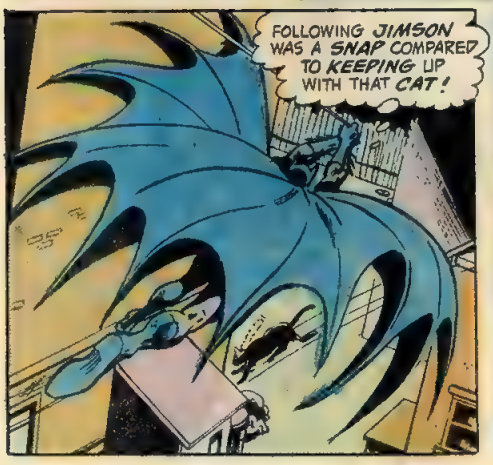
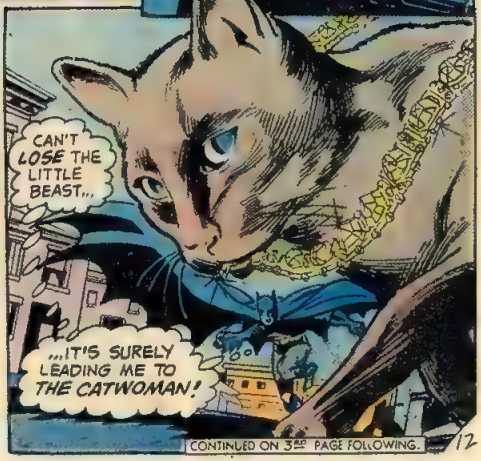
PRESENTLY... IN A GOTHAM PLAZA HOTEL SUITE...
SHUT MAH MOUTH, ALFIE, HONEY!
DID Y'ALL SEE THE GENT IN THE LOBBY?
YOU MEAN "GENTLEMAN" JEREMIAH JIMSON-- RENOWNED CAT-BURGLAR?
THE SAME, ALFRED!
AND JUDGING FROM HIS SMIRK, HE'LL BE AFTER MY... ER--MRS. CARRINGTON-BRIDGEWATER'S TRINKETS!
KEEP WATCH IN THE CORRIDOR, ALFRED--
--I'LL TEND TO MATTERS HERE!
WITHIN MINUTES...
RIGHT ON SCHEDULE... USING SUCTION CUPS TO CLIMB THE SIDE OF THE HOTEL!
OUT FOR YOUR EVENING CONSTITUTIONAL, JIMSON?
:GASP!: THE BATMAN!
I AIN'T GONNA FIGHT YOU, BATMAN!
YOU'RE TOO TOUGH... EVERYONE KNOWS THAT!
BUT I'M AGILE--


I'LL CALL COMMISSIONER GORDON AND TELL HIM THE CASE IS CLOSED!
EH--? WHAT'S THAT?
IN A STRAY BEAM OF LIGHT FROM THE HOTEL SIGN, THE BATMAN SEES A GLEAM...

A SIAMESE CAT... WITH MRS. CARRINGTON-BRIDGEWATER'S NECKLACE!
FIRST A CAT-BURGLAR... NOW A BURGLAR-CAT!
AND IT DOESN'T REQUIRE GENIUS TO KNOW WHO ITS MISTRESS IS!

THERE WERE REALLY TWO CROOKS AFTER THE JEWELS... BY COINCIDENCE, OF COURSE!
UH-OH! THE CAT'S LEAPING TO AN ADJOINING ROOF!
I'LL HAVE TO DUMP JIMSON..





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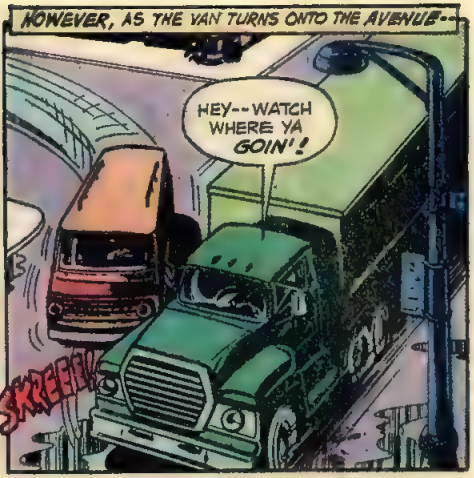
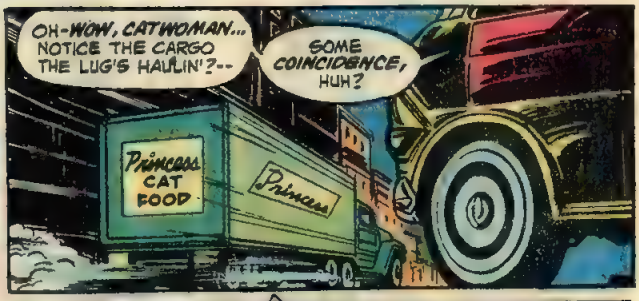
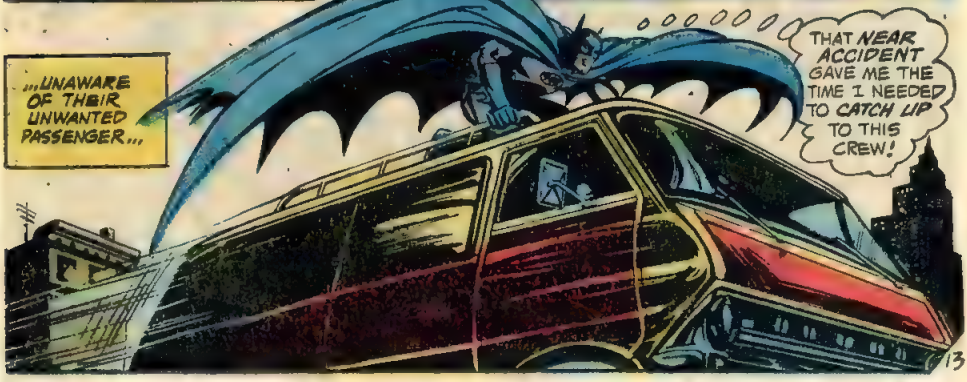
THE CAT'S HOPPING INTO THAT VAN!
I CAN'T POSSIBLY GET THERE BEFORE IT LEAVES!


HOWEVER, AS THE VAN TURNS ONTO THE AVENUE--
HEY--WATCH WHERE YA GOIN'!
SKREEE!!

YA FATHER WEARS YER MOTHER'S ARMY BOOTS, YA LUG!
SAME TO YOU--DOUBLE!
HUSH, RUDY! WE CAN'T AFFORD A PUBLIC SPAT!


OH-WOW, CATWOMAN... NOTICE THE CARGO THE LUG'S HAULIN'?--
SOME COINCIDENCE, HUH?
Princess CAT FOOD
Princess

THUS, THE CATWOMAN AND HER COHORTS SPEED THROUGH THE DARK STREETS OF GOTHAM...


...UNAWARE OF THEIR UNWANTED PASSENGER...
THAT NEAR ACCIDENT GAVE ME THE TIME I NEEDED TO CATCH UP TO THIS CREW!

AN HOUR LATER...
OUR INITIAL EXCURSION HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL, GENTLEMEN!
THIS BAUBLE WILL BRING A SMALL FORTUNE!
AN' WE DIDN'T HAVE TO SWEAT TO GET IT!
YEAH! SWELL RACKET, CATWOMAN--
--THE PUSSYCAT DOES THE WORK AND WE RAKE IN MILLIONS!
I WOULDN'T BUY ANY YACHTS YET, CRUMB!
THE B-BATMAN--! HOW--?
A LUCKY COINCIDENCE BROUGHT ME!
AND YOU'LL BE VERY SORRY IT DID, MY DEAREST ENEMY!
CLAW HIM, MY PRETTIES!
WITH BREATHTAKING SWIFTNESS, THE TWIN OCELOTS HEED THE CATWOMAN'S COMMAND...

BUT THE BIG CATS' QUICKNESS IS MATCHED BY THE BATMAN'S THOUGHT-FAST REFLEXES...
YOU CLOWNS SEEM TO BE GARDEN-VARIETY HOODS...
...NOT NEARLY AS INTERESTING AS THE KITTIES...
THAT SHOULD STUN THE OCELOTS ENOUGH...
...TO KEEP THEM OUT OF ACTION FOR A WHILE!

...THE SORT OF SMALL-TIMERS BIG-TIMERS LIKE THE CATWOMAN USE AS ERRAND BOYS!
CAT'S PAWS!
OH... YOU-- BACK OF ME!
YOU'RE RUDY STERN, RIGHT?
I KNOW YOU FIGURE TO SCRAMBLE MY BRAINS--
--BUT YOU AREN'T FAST ENOUGH--OR SMART ENOUGH!
CATWOMAN FLED WHILE I WAS PLAYING PATTY-CAKE WITH HER PUNKS!
SO A SECOND TIME I LET HER SLIP AWAY...
...OR MAYBE I'M "SLIPPING"!
THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS FULL OF WAREHOUSES... LOFTS... ALLEYS.. SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
IT'D TAKE A BLOODHOUND TO LOCATE HER!
MEOWR!
A BLOODHOUND..? OR... JUST MAYBE... A CAT!
THIS FURRY JEWEL-THIEF IS TRAINED TO RETURN TO THE CATWOMAN!
CONTINUED ON 8sd PAGE FOLLOWING

TV Magic Tricks

SHRINKING DIE

B-7 $1.00 ea

A regular die is shown and put in the left hand. Hand is touched with a wand and when opened the die has shrunk to a tiny one. No skill required.

MULTIPLYING BILLIARD BALLS

G-9 .50¢

One ball becomes two, then three, and four, before your eyes. They disappear the same way. Hand is quicker than the eye.

LINKING RINGS

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D-2 $3.00 ea

CIGARETTE THROUGH HANDKERCHIEF

G-10 .50¢

A lit cigarette placed in a handkerchief, disappears without burning the cloth. The basic trick for every magician.

MAGICIAN'S FELT TOP HAT

M-34

$2.50 ea

WONDER BLOCKS

Put in red, blue, yellow. They come out yellow, red, blue. How? Only you, can tell.

B-11 $1.00 ea.

VANISHER

B-5 $1.00 ea

Dollar bills, handkerchiefs, or other small articles will vanish, when you clap your hands together. Mystify all your friends.

SURE SHOT DICE BOX

A box with dice is examined. Close it, shake it and predict the combination to be thrown.

R-42

$1.00 ea

VANISHING COIN IN GLASS

A-12 .50¢

The quarter vanishes when it is dropped into a small glass of water. Spectators feel and see the quarter up to the last minute. An all time favorite.

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THE GREAT NUMBER MYSTERY

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You immediately announce the number mentally selected by your spectator. The number could represent his age or money in his pocket, etc. A baffling effect.

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A nickel changes to a penny, then to a dime. All equipment may be passed out for an examination.

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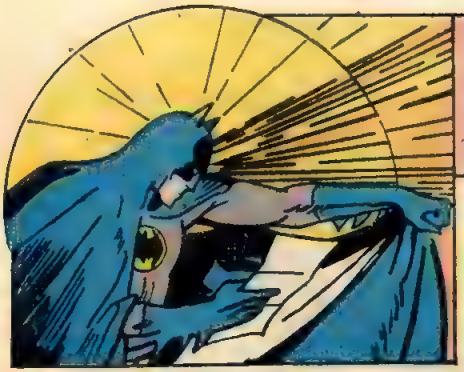
SCAT, KITTY! FIND YOUR MISTRESS!
ONCE MORE, THE BATMAN TRAILS THE SMALL, PURRING CREATURE THROUGH THE FILTH AND STENCH OF THE CITY'S UNDERBELLY...
SHE'S ENTERING THAT WAREHOUSE... AND THE DOOR HAS BEEN FORCED!
SEEMS MY GAMBLE IS PAYING OFF!
SHOW YOURSELF, CATWOMAN!
YOU'RE NOT ABOUT TO SHAKE ME AGAIN!
A MERE WHISPER OF BRAIDED LEATHER CUTTING THROUGH THE MUSTY AIR ALERTS THE BATMAN TO HIS FOE'S CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS--
--A WHIRL... A BLUR OF A GLOVED FOREARM AND--
STILL TRYING TO WHIP ME INTO LINE, CATWOMAN?
YOU'VE BEEN ATTEMPTING THAT FOR YEARS--

-- UNSUCCESSFULLY!
THE GAME IS OVER, CATWOMAN! YOU'RE FINISHED!
OR SHOULD I SAY-- SACKED?!
I'LL SCRATCH YOUR EYES--
HUH-UH!
NOT NOW!
NOT EVER!
WORST OF ALL, MY OWN PRETTY PET, HECATE, BETRAYED ME!
NO, SHE DIDN'T! TRUE, I HOPED SHE'D LEAD ME TO YOU!
BUT SHE WASN'T SNIFFING YOU--
--SHE WAS AFTER THE STUFF IN THE SACKS...
...CATNIP!
CATNIP
WHAT'S WRONG, CATWOMAN? WHY THE GLUM FACE?
CAN'T YOU APPRECIATE AN INCREDIBLE... COINCIDENCE?
END



LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Bob:

By an ironic stroke, the **Scarecrow** is **The Batman's** antagonist in the same month that the **Parasite** is plaguing **Superman.** I always felt that these two villains were untapped sources of evil potential pitted against their respective superhero foes. And Denny O'Neil did more for the **Scarecrow** in **BATMAN #262** ("The Scarecrow's Trail of Fear") than any other writer ever has.

Just as **Two-Face's** penchant for "double" crimes is his trademark, the **Scarecrow's** is the injection of **fear.** But with such an underdeveloped nemesis, there isn't much flexibility. All the **Scarecrow** can do is make **Batman** cringe with fear . . . it's his only gimmick! Little wonder that his character has never be developed before, but Denny finally did it!

A battle of wits is my all-time favorite plot in any comic. Denny has an unparalleled knack of portraying emotions realistically at the right moment and the **Scarecrow's** trembling as the **Gotham Gladiator** advanced for the "kill" was effectively gripping . . . or grippingly effective, if you prefer.**CLINT "BUC" THOMAS, Oak Hill, W.Va.**

(Well, the "Buc" stops here, but our next correspondent wants to put his two cents in!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

In "The Scarecrow's Trail of Fear," Denny O'Neil once again brought back one of **Batman's** timeless foes . . . into an inadequate story with glaring faults that would frighten any crow away. The quality of fear itself—that which made the **Scarecrow** truly unique—was almost totally sublimated except towards the end of the tale. There the **Scarecrow's** ridiculous display of terror and **Batman's** complete lack of it served to ruin all atmosphere (or whatever it was that developed) and seriously damaged a classic villain's image. The **Scarecrow** is supposed to know all about fear, isn't he? So he shouldn't let his own emotions get control to the point where he goes limp, right? Of course! And **Batman,** who has previously been profoundly affected by the fear-gimmicks shouldn't triumph over them by simple mind-over-matter!

ALLEN VARNEY, Reno, Nev.

(Could be Batman's grown immune to the Scarecrow's brand of fear after the number of inoculations of it he's received!—BR)

Dear Editor:

I suppose I was supposed to like **BATMAN #262.** Well, I did, but it's a surprise! I've never thought too much of the **Scarecrow** . . . He's too gimmicky and almost always induces fear artificially rather than by being fearsome himself.

But Denny O'Neil did a considerably good job, especially since it's surely not easy to write about a fearsome villain who's short on fear. Denny kept him out of the picture for a good part of the story and **Batman's** detective goings-on were interesting.

Ernie Chua's debut was hardly as earth-shattering as I would have expected. He draws as if he has been doing **Batman** all his life. Terrific! **BATMAN** is a book of subtleties, of actions which are natural, not contrived, a book which surprises us with it's often-unexpected realism. Instead of coming in like a hurricane, Ernie eased in as **Batman** penciller and I believe there isn't a **Bat**-fan around that won't fall in love with his work immediately!

BOB RODI, Oak Brook, Ill.

(You're not far wrong, Bob, as the capsule comments below prove!—BR)

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

Ernie Chua has slipped efficiently into Irv Novick's shoes. Though this may be largely due to Dick Giordano's inking, I think I'd like Ernie's rendition of the **Caped Crusader** even if it weren't embellished by Mr. G.

SCOTT GIBSON, Evergreen, Colo.

. . . Ernie Chua is fantastic as a penciller for **Bats!**

MARK DOOLEY, Columbus, Ind.

. . . Ernie's cover was excellent! And he and Dick Giordano did a beautiful job on **Batman's** adventure. The **Scarecrow** looked great!

SCOTT TAYLOR, Portland, Tex.

. . . I think Ernie Chua draws a beautiful story and has superb layouts, but the **Batman** wasn't all his. I realize this is his first outing on **Batman** and he would need a lot of reference material, but there were too many obvious Aparo and Wrightson takeoffs. Let's see the real Chua **Batman,** for Ernie is a really talented man!

CHRIS PADOVANO, Sayreville, N.J.

. . . Ernie Chua makes **Batman** seem three-dimensional and real. He is probably the best all-around as far as Bat-art is concerned.

JOEL SHAPIRO, Bronx, N.Y.

(Ernie returns to the BATMAN drawing board next issue, illustrating "Invitation to a Murder!" And Ernie'll be pencilling the meeting of THE CREEPER and our Clown Prince of Crime in THE JOKER #3—on sale in early June.—BOB ROZAKIS)

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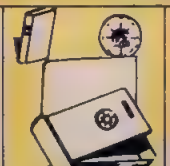

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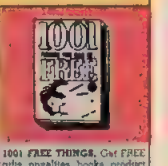

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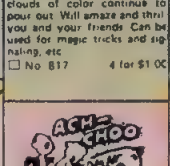

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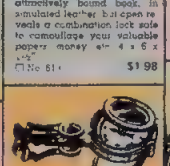

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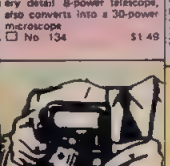

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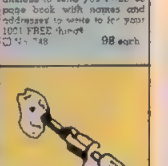

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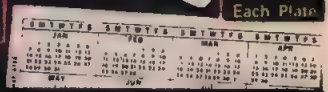

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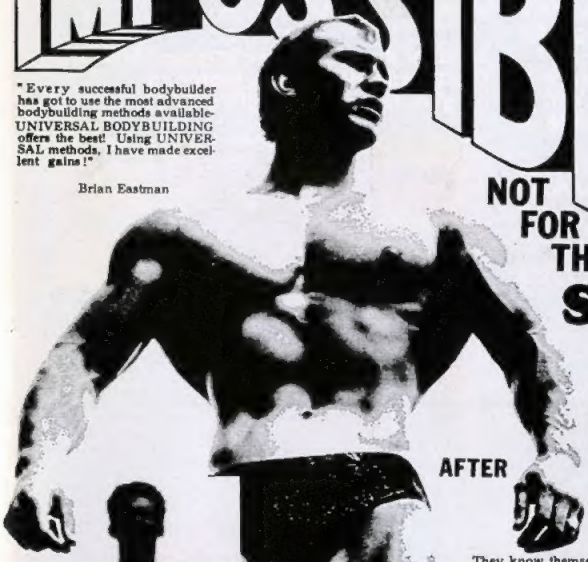

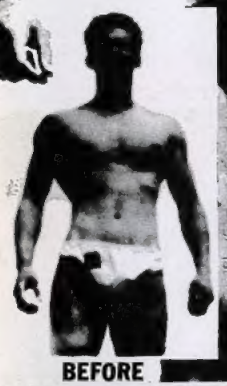

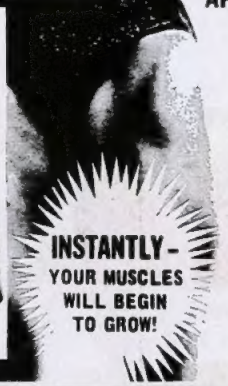

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- ☐ **LEGS** — Put some muscle on those spindly legs! Muscular legs will give you extra power like you've never dreamed possible!
- ☐ **ABDOMEN** — Trim and hard — that's the way your abs should look. Get rid of your pot-belly, improve your digestion, and get that washboard waist—all when you develop those abdominal muscles!

FREE!

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BODYBUILDING
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Dearborn, Michigan 48121

RUSH me those FREE COLORFUL BROCHURES TODAY! I want to be able to KNOCK 'EM DEAD with a FABULOUS BODY!!!

Name_____ Age___

Address _____

City_____ State____ Zip____

MAIL TODAY!

Outgrown your old Daisy®? Maybe Dad can help you pick a new one.

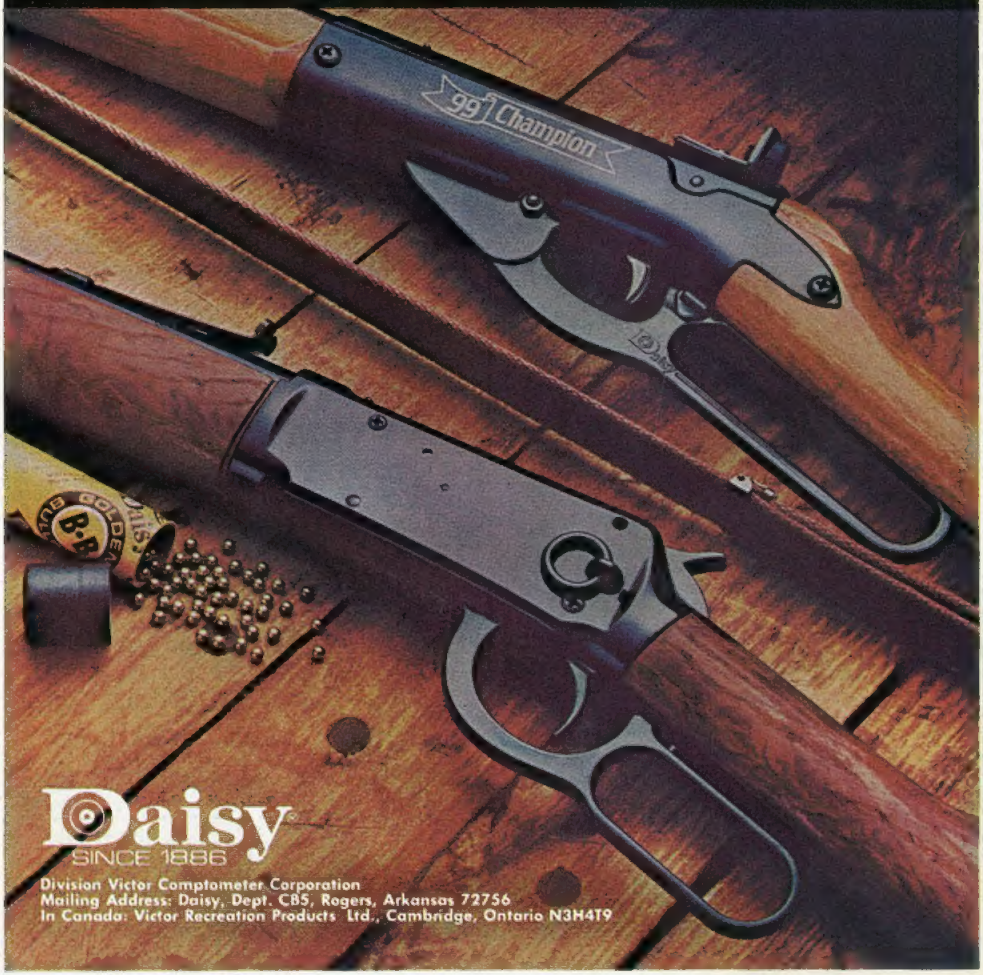
You're bigger now. You could be ready for your second Daisy B·B gun. Dad can help you decide and then choose from the entire Daisy line. To find the one exactly right for you.

Imagine! A handsome new Daisy with long, lean lines and a real gun feel. With a man-sized Western or Monte Carlo stock. And the heft you can handle.

Power? Your new Daisy will have all you need for the fun you want. It'll be more accurate, too. Just because it feels so good and fits so right.

So talk it over with Dad. Then ask him to take you down to the store that sells Daisy B·B guns. You'll be able to try on all the Daisy models right for you, as well as see the whole exciting line of Daisy accessories.

Send for the new, super 24-page, full-color Daisy consumer catalog featuring air guns for ages 8-15. It's only 25c.



Daisy
SINCE 1886

Division Victor Comptometer Corporation
Mailing Address: Daisy, Dept. CB5, Rogers, Arkansas 72756
In Canada: Victor Recreation Products Ltd., Cambridge, Ontario N3H4T9

IT'S A THOUSAND-TO-ONE SHOT... BUT IT'S THE ONLY SHOT I'VE GOT!

SCAT, KITTY! FIND YOUR MISTRESS!

SIAMESE CAT

ONCE MORE, THE BATMAN TRAILS THE SMALL, PURRING CREATURE THROUGH THE FILTH AND STENCH OF THE CITY'S UNDERBELLY...

SHE'S ENTERING THAT WAREHOUSE... AND THE DOOR HAS BEEN FORCED!

SEEMS MY GAMBLE IS PAYING OFF!

SHOW YOURSELF, CATWOMAN!

YOU'RE NOT ABOUT TO SHAKE ME AGAIN!

A MERE WHISPER OF BRAIDED LEATHER CUTTING THROUGH THE MUSTY AIR ALERTS THE BATMAN TO HIS FOE'S CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS--

--A WHIRL... A BLUR OF A GLOVED FOREARM AND--

STILL TRYING TO WHIP ME INTO LINE, CATWOMAN?

YOU'VE BEEN ATTEMPTING THAT FOR YEARS--

FLATTERMANN